

SAR MISSION SCENARIO
#MSI-2000

Handout 1

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) received a request for mission from the FAA. Mrs. Samantha Collins reported that her husband was supposed to return from a business trip on Friday, 19 June. In her last phone conversation with him on Thursday night, he told her he would be leaving from Nags Head, at 1700 hours, and then would fly to Danville. He had a short business meeting scheduled at the airport with a Mark Frederick, and then he would depart at about 1900 hours. He expected to be home at 2100 hours, after he landed at Manassas, serviced the aircraft, and put it in the hanger.

AFRCC spoke with Mr. Frederick, and he said that they had had the meeting in his car in the parking lot. All went well, but he noticed that Mr. Collins was very tired. He watched Mr. Collins take off at 1830 hours. He did notice the aircraft was wobbling as he went out of sight to the Northwest.

The FAA reported that Mr. Collins has 2300 hours of experience, but only fifty hours in type. His records show he was a retired US Army Major who had flown helicopters. He got his private license in November 1998. He bought this aircraft in October 1998.

Mr. Collins filed a VFR flight plan to Danville. He opened the plan when he left Nags Head, but did not change or close it when he reached Danville.

The aircraft is a C-172. It is white with blue trim. It had an engine overhaul and annual inspection in October 1998, after Mr. Collins bought the aircraft. The work was done at Manassas.

Mr. Collins is 6'8" tall, weights 195 pounds, has gray short hair and a mustache.

ADDITIONAL DATA COLLECTED DURING THE MISSION

1. A clue: A woman called the Danville police and said she lives in a trailer park on Route 655 near the airport. She saw a small plane, at about 1830 hours, fly overhead toward the mountains and it seemed to be "wobbling more than they usually do."

2. A clue: A man called the Sheriffs Department and reported a low flying aircraft with its engine "gunning" at 1845 hours. He lives at the intersection of Rt. 733 and Rt. 734.

3. Clue: The line crew did not refuel the aircraft. But, when Mr. Collins got out of the aircraft, the line boy noticed he had to push the seat back in order to get out of the airplane. He reports the guy was really tall. No problems he could see with the aircraft.

4. A man called into the airport and stated he lives on Rt. 630 near where the power lines cross. He saw a light plane about 1830 hours that appeared to be going up very sharply and then he lost it behind a tree.